



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests

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04-18 For Immediate Release

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### **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Announces October 27, 2004 Public Meeting on Spruce Decline Project**

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, WI, October 12, 2004.** The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest announced plans to hold a public meeting to provide information and seek comment on the proposed treatment of approximately 8,000 acres of plantation white spruce. These trees are dead or dying because they have been affected by a combination of insects, diseases, and environmental factors referred to as “Spruce Decline”.

The Public meeting will be held on October 27, 2004 at the Woodruff Town Hall, in Woodruff, Wisconsin from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The town hall is a fully accessible facility located north on State Highway 51, one block north of the intersection of Highways 47 and 51 on the east side of the road. The building is not visible from the highway. A sign will be posted at the entrance to the town hall.

The meeting will provide the public with the opportunity to ask questions of Forest specialists, view informational maps, and submit written comments that will assist us in determining the level of public support for this project.

Forest Health Protection experts at Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry state “the conditions occurring on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the 8,000 plus acres of affected spruce meet the epidemic standard defined by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003.” As a result, the Forest Service will conduct an Environmental Assessment under the authority of that Act.

The project will focus on 4 objectives: restoring forest health, salvaging the timber, restoring Spruce Grouse Habitat, and reducing hazardous fuels, in compliance with direction established in the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Plan, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Forest Service Chief’s direction on sustainable forests.

For more information on this public meeting, contact:

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